

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY ZEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3570

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENGR, KU, SA, IZ, MU

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF KUWAIT PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: KUWAIT 3136 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: KUWAITI PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PLAN VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF STATES OVER NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. IN ADDITION TO COORDINATION ARAB POSITION VIS A VIS MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS AND BILATERAL ISSUES, PETROLEUM POLICIES ALSO LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY

2. IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 26 AUGUST AND THE BEGINNING OF RAMADHAN
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(17 SEPTEMBER) KUWAITI CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER, JABER

AL-AHMAD AL-SABAH, AND FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMAD, WILL MAKE A SERIES OF VISITS TO GULF STATES, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR SAUDI ARABIA ON 26 AUGUST FOR A BRIEFING BY THE SAUDIS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ARAB WORLD, INCLUDING PROBABLY A DISCUSSION ON PETROLEUM ISSUES. HE WILL ALSO DISCUSS AN AGENDA FOR THE VISIT OF SHAIKH JABER, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

3. FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, SHAIKH SABAH WILL "MAKE A TOUR OF GULF STATES". THE STATES HE WILL VISIT HAVE NOT BEEN NAMED BUT WILL INCLUDE PROBABLY THE UAE, QATAR AND BAHRAIN.

4. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER SHAIKH SABAH ALSO INCLUDES OMAN IN HIS SCHEDULE IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT DIPLOMATIC CRISIS (REFTEL) BETWEEN THE TWO STATES AND KUWAIT'S ROLE IN THE ARAB CONCILIATION COMMITTEE, WHICH IS ATTEMPTING TO SETTLE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OMAN AND THE PDRY. A VISIT TO OMAN WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT IN INCREASING COOPERATION AMONG THE GULF STATES. IN THIS REGARD, SAUDI AND KUWAITI COORDINATION OF POLICY ON THE PDRY WILL PROBABLY BE AMONG THE PRIMARY TOPICS DISCUSSED IN JIDDA. KUWAIT'S POLICY VIS A VIS THE PDRY HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO ATTEMPT TO OFFER IT AN ALTERNATIVE TO SOVIET AID IN ORDER TO BRING IT BACK INTO THE ARAB FOLD.

5. COMMENT: THE TIMING OF THE KUWAITI VISITS IS SIGNIFICANT. KUWAIT FEELS MORE CONFIDENT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AS A RESULT OF THE ALLEGED SUCCESS OF ITS "HIGH-PRICE PETROLEUM" POLICY. IT NO LONGER IS BEING LABELED A FOLLOWER OF SAUDI OIL POLICY AND KUWAITI VIEWS ON OIL PRICE AND PRODUCTION ISSUES UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE AIRED. SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE SAUDI-UAE BORDER AGREEMENT, KUWAIT NO LONGER HAS TO WALK A TIGHTROPE BETWEEN ITS CLOSEST FRIEND IN THE GULF, THE UAE, AND THE SAG. LASTLY, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID BIN SULTAN AL-NUHAYYAN MADE SOME HEADWAY IN IRAQ IN GETTING A DIALOGUE GOING BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT ON THE ONE HAND AND IRAQ ON THE OTHER. KUWAIT WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN SUCH A DIALOGUE.

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